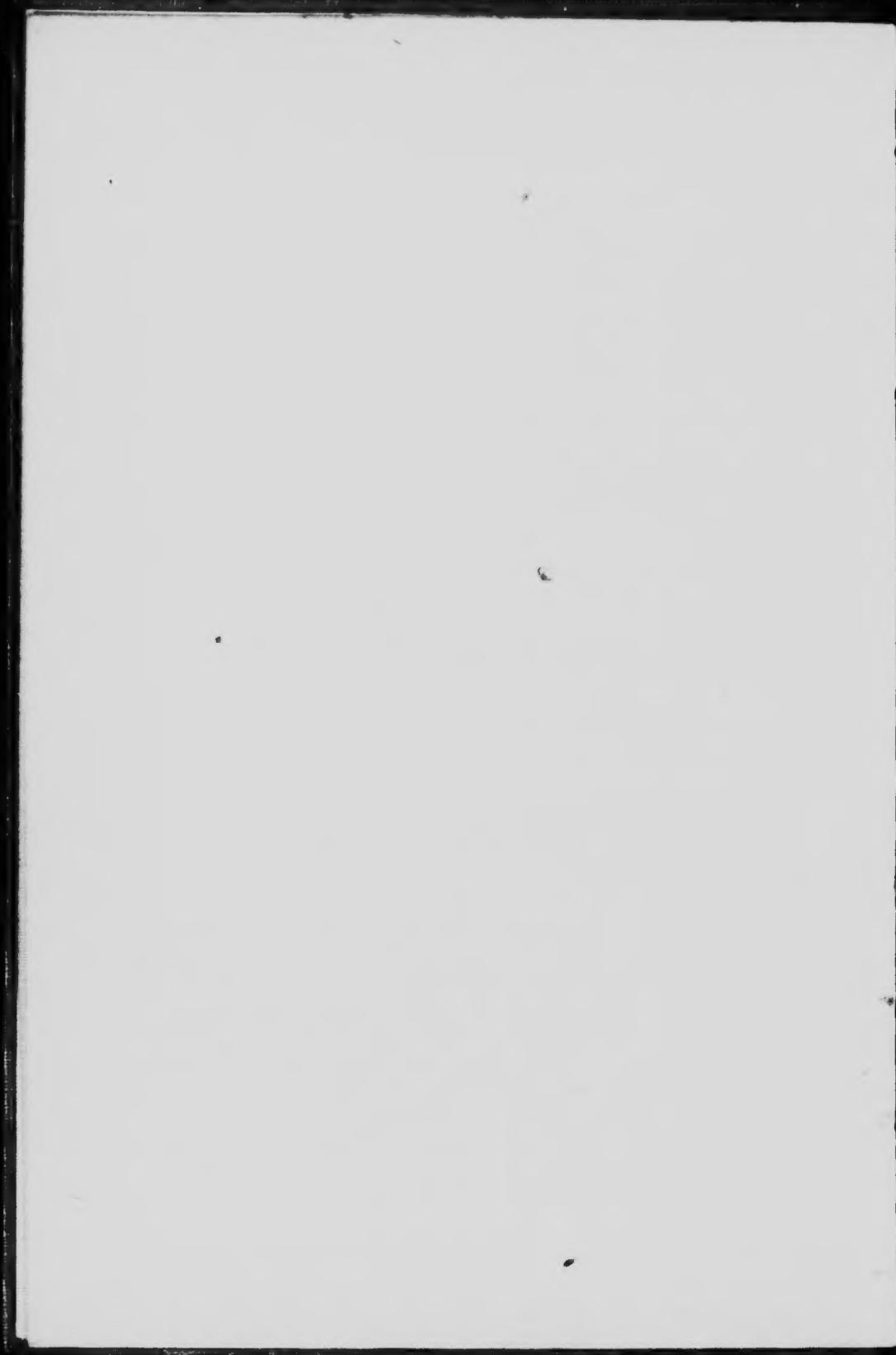
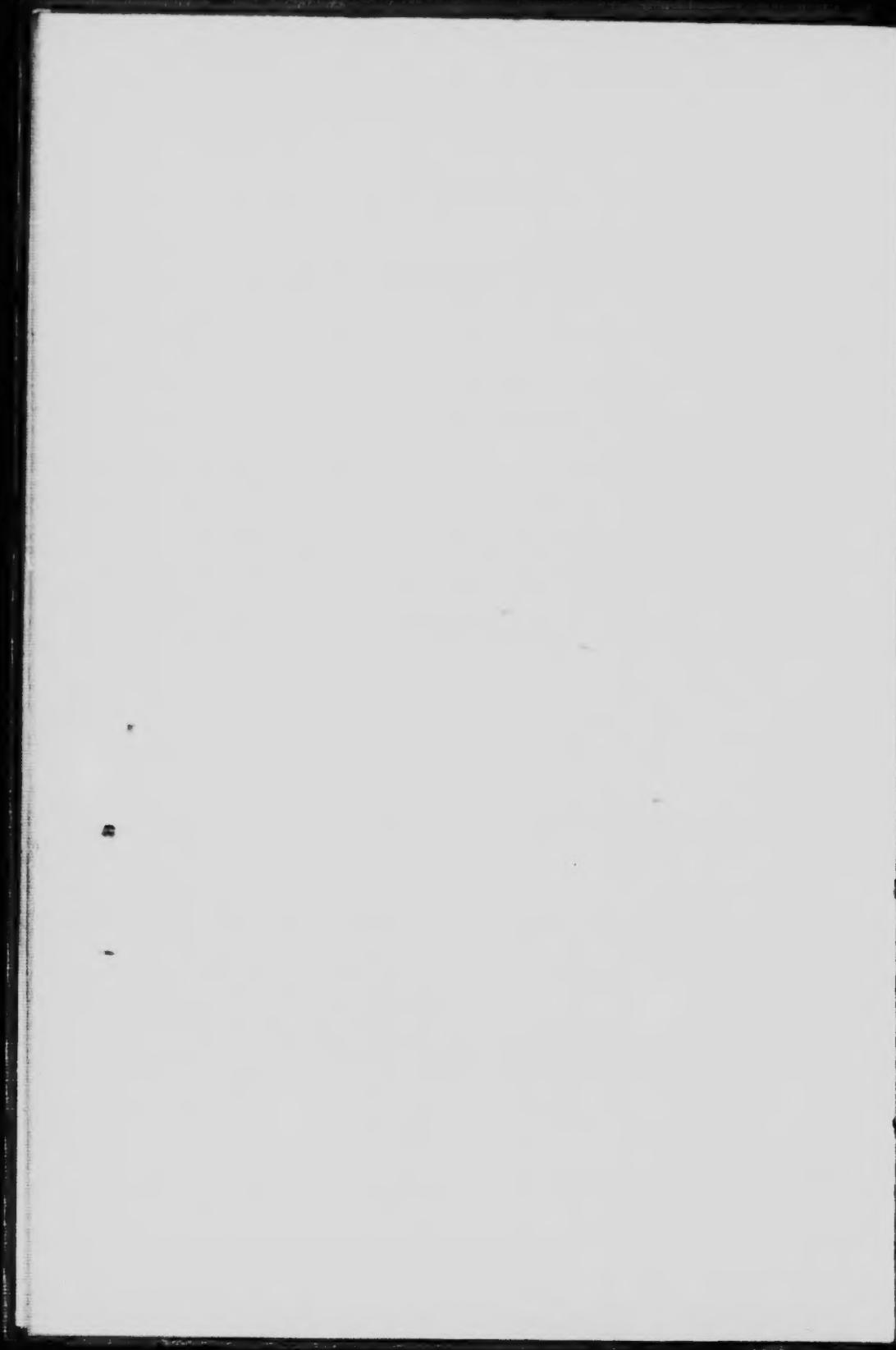


# THE BOOK OF ARTEMAS

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# **THE BOOK OF ARTEMAS**



# THE BOOK OF ARTEMAS

*Concerning men, and the things that  
men did do, at the time when there  
was war*

*SEVENTY-THIRD EDITION*

WILLIAM BRIGGS

TORONTO

1918

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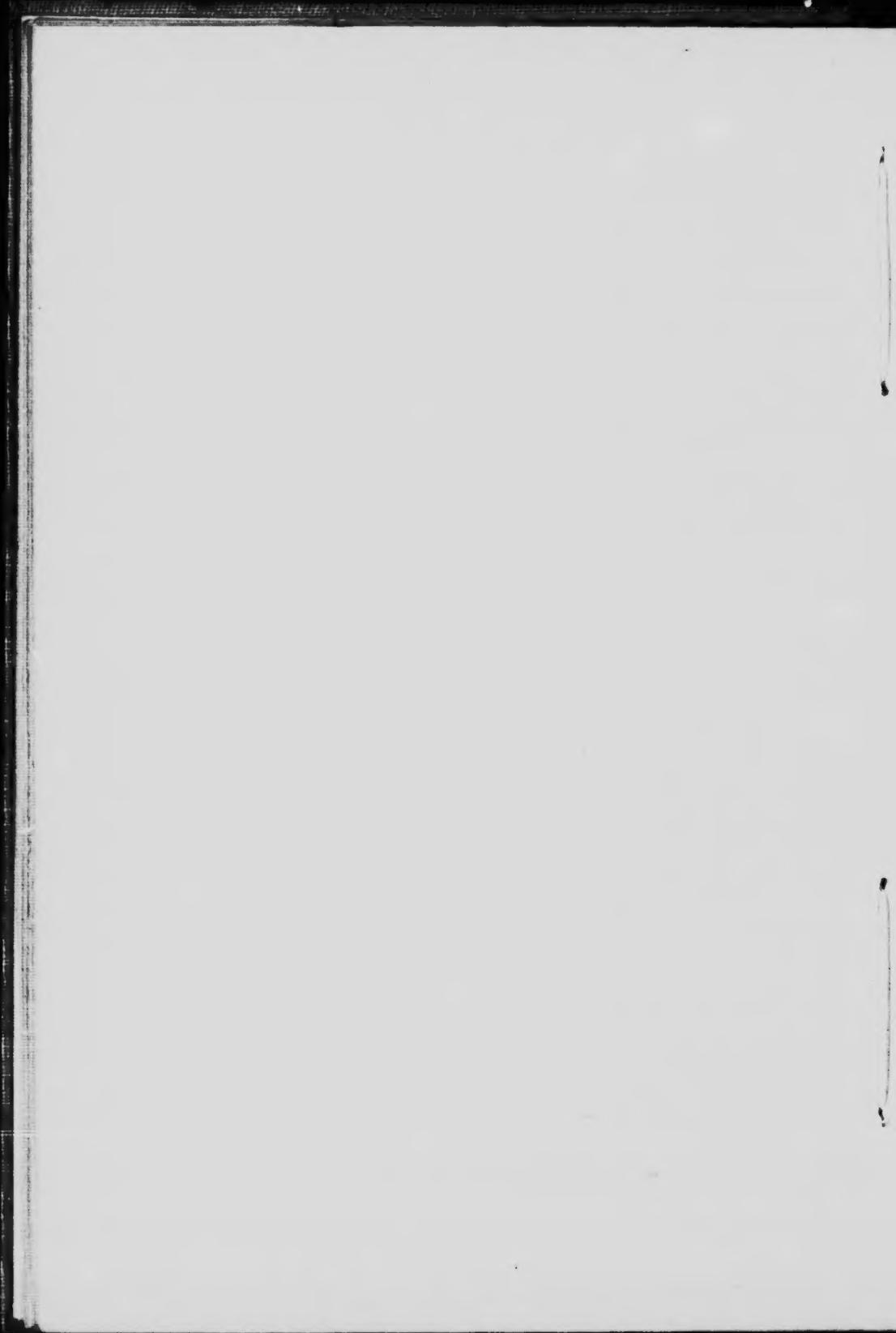
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# THE BOOK OF ARTEMAS

## CHAPTER I.

1 *The Chronicles of Artemas, the scribe. 3 The state of the land of Eur. 4 Concerning Willi, who ruled over the men of Hu. 7 Concerning Mud, that was his son. 9 Mud encourageth the ambitions of his father. 19 And sendeth in unto him a certain wise man. 21 The parable of the oak tree. 26 And the interpretation thereof. 29 Willi maketh him a war.*

THE words of Artemas of the scribes that were in Lon in the land of En.

2 Of the things that were and of the things that were to be: concerning men and the things that men did do.

3 ¶ Now there was peace over all the land of Eur

and amongst all the nations that abode there, it was a time of great content.

4 ¶ But Willi, who ruled over the men of Hu, was a crafty man and greedy, and his ways were devious.

5 And when he beheld the prosperity of the land and the industry of those that dwelt round about, and that they did live in peace, the one with the other, his heart grew black within him and his soul vomited envy.

6 Moreover, he was a proud man and ambitious withal. His covetousness was like unto a tree, that being planted in fertile ground, flour-

isheth mightily ; and the independence of the peoples *was* as gall unto his vanity.

7 ¶ Now the son of Willi was a young man, and he was puffed out with pride and his mind was empty ; in his living, he was vicious, and his name, *it was* Mud.

8 And when Mud saw that his father's soul was torn with the violence of his envy and that he coveted that *which* was not his, it rejoiced him exceedingly.

9 ¶ And he laid *himself* out to entice his father, and did speak many specious words unto him, and was for ever *at him*.

10 And Mud said unto his father, All Highest, hail ! And Willi answered him, saying, Thou *art* my son : And Mud said unto him, Great art thou above all the kings of the earth, for thou hast served the Lord faithfully throughout the days of thy life.

11 And Willi answered

him, *saying*, Verily have I found favour in the sight of the Lord ; and in my sight has the Lord *also* found favour.

12 And Mud looked upon his father *from the side* ; he gazed upon his countenance with a furtive look, and *did see* that his father's vanity was without bounds. So he spake unto him again, saying,

13 Thy shadow is as the sun whose rays bring forth warmth, *giving* life unto all them that are beneath it.

14 And Willi said, That *which* thou sayest is indeed true ; yet doth the sun shine over all the world whilst my shadow is for ever at two hours *after* summer noon.

15 And Mud answered him, saying, In the evening of thy days *shall* thy shadow grow long, and it shall spread its shade over all the world ; for *it is* a good world and deserveth well of thee.

And the Lord will surely reward thee for all thy righteousness.

16 And Willi said, Verily, art thou my son, and in wisdom art thou second only to thy father. I will make me a covenant with the Lord, and it shall come to pass that I shall have dominion over all the earth and over all the waters that are on the earth. And whatsoever shall be left over, that will I give unto the Lord for to be His own.

17 And I will make might right, and them that bow not down before me, those will I surely slay, both they and their wives and their children and the stranger that is within their gates. And their oxen will I take as an offering unto my Majesty. And their household goods shall be mine by the strength of my sword.

18 And he said unto Mud, that was his son,

Send thou unto Lie a wise man that I may take counsel of him.

19 ¶ And a certain man whose name was Bern was sojourning in the land, and him did Mud bring unto his father, having first instructed him privily.

20 And when he that was called Bern came into the presence of the king, he bowed him low, saying, Hail, O king !

21 ¶ And he began to speak, saying, There was a certain husbandman and he planted him an oak in a place where trees grew;

22 And it came to pass that the oak grew up and its roots spread themselves about. And there was not room enough in that place, and the trees that were planted there before rose up and choked it so that it did languish away until there was no sap remaining in it.

23 And when the husbandman saw how it was, he sent his servant with

an axe and he told him to cut down *the trees* that were round about.

24 Yea, every tree except the oak did he command him to cut down, so that there was room, and the oak did flourish as the cedars that are in Lebanon, and its branches did sway them over all the world.

25 And Willi said unto him, Explain unto me the meaning of this parable, thou very wise man. *Of what* is the oak and *of what* the trees that were round about?

26 ¶ And Bern answered him, saying, The nurseryman is the Lord of Hosts. The oak that He planted, it is thyself, O King; and the trees that

would choke it, they are the nations that dwell round about.

27 The axe is thine army, and the servant of the husbandman is he whom thou *shalt make* to be the captain over all thine host.

28 And when Willi heard *the things* that the wise man did say, he was well pleased; wherefore he gave unto him a cross, and it was made of iron.

29 ¶ And after he had made him secret preparations, he went out with a great multitude of men and much munition, and he made him a war, *the like whereof* was never known on earth before.

## CHAPTER II.

1 Peace reigneth in En. 2 Internal discord is loosed. 4 The men of Ire have much power. 6 They obtain their demands. 12 Petty strife prevaileth. 14 The priests see wickedness everywhere. 19 The owners of ships raise their hire. 26 The rulers are blamed. 27 Concerning the war scribes.

NOW there was peace throughout all the land of En, and the noise of battle was afar off. And the merchants of the world did bring their wares for to sell them, even fine cloth and spices that were rare did they bring in their ships.

2 ¶ But he that putteth away the sword doth loosen the tongue; wherefore it came to pass that there was great talk amongst the rulers, and the mighty men did say things, the one against the other.

3 And there were many

jealousies amongst them, and they did utter spiteful sayings concerning each other; verily, they were like unto evil-minded children in a quarrel, and their pettiness of spirit was an abomination.

4 ¶ Now an House that is divided against itself will stand anything. And when men from the land of Ire took power into their own hands and did rule over En, there was no one amongst the rulers to say them nay.

5 And the men of Ire exacted tribute from the rulers, and the people of the land rebelled not; for penury doth bring forth wisdom, but prosperity breedeth only fools. And the prosperity of the land of En was great.

6 ¶ And when the men of Ire saw that all that which they demanded was given unto them, they

did make them long faces, and did grumble aloud, and did utter groans in the public places and strange noises in the portals of the House. And when they had thus prepared the way for it, they did straightways ask for more.

7 And a few that dwelt in the land of En did make them a stand, saying, What we have given unto you, it is enough. Therefore, get ye hence, ye men of Ire.

8 And the men of Ire waxed very wroth, and they did curse the men of En and did swear strange oaths concerning them, so that they that were weak amongst the rulers began to shiver in their sandals.

9 And they held them a council together in secret and did agitate themselves greatly, seeking for a means whereby they might escape from the wrath of the men of Ire, for it was a ter-

rible wrath, being very ugly.

10 And after one had said one thing and another had said another thing, then did all them that were gathered together make them an agreement, and they did give unto the men of Ire all those things that they had demanded.

11 And the men of Ire prepared them long faces and did get them ready for another occasion. Neither was the day ever known when any man that was from Ire did render thanks for that which he had received.

12 ¶ And class quarrelled with class, the artisan with the master, the noble with the serf, the priests with the people, and the fools with one another.

13 And all those that thought one thing did contend with them that did think another thing, and the bickering that was between them, it was very great.

14 ¶ And there were those amongst the priests that did travel about the country, crying out in a loud voice, and saying, Wickedness ! Wickedness ! All is wickedness !

15 And they did say many things concerning the young men and concerning the damsels, and also concerning them both together. And those that listened unto them were amazed that such things should be ; and some there were that doubted.

16 And the priests did raise their hands unto heaven, saying, Deliver us from evil. And the people did drop their hands towards the earth, saying, Deliver us from the priests.

17 And notwithstanding all that which was said by the priests and by them that did grub into things, the wickedness of the people was in no wise greater than the wickedness of the other nations of the world.

18 And this was the state of the land of En when Willi did make him the War : but afterwards, it was different. For the rulers declared them a truce, and no longer cried out after one another in the public places ; nevertheless, the ardour of the priests remained without abatement, and there were those amongst the news-mongers on both sides that did conceal their partisanship in an ill manner.

19 ¶ And because the land of En was built upon an island, therefore was it necessary for the food of the people to be brought unto them in ships.

20 And the men of Hu did sink of these ships a few, and the rulers of the land did seize a great number of them for to carry the armies and the implements of war. Wherefore the number of them that were available for to bring the people's food, it was less than before.

21 And they that did own the ships that remained did make them new rates of freight *that were twofold, and threefold, and fourfold greater than those that had been before.*

22 And the merchants did make them higher prices for the wares that they did sell ; and some did do so because it *was* forced upon them ; and others did do so because they were greedy for the profits, wherefore they spake privily, the one unto the other, saying, See, brother, the opportunity is *upon us.*

23 And because it was *beyond* them and they could devise no plan against it, therefore did the rulers of the land hold themselves aloof from all *these things* for a full two years.

24 Wherefore the people did pay them very dearly for everything that they did eat, and those that did sell mer-

chandise in the market places, these grew fat in a lean time.

25 And when the people murmured, the rulers spake soft words unto them, saying, *As*uredly is your lot cast in *an hard place* ; even so, the straits of the men of Hu, are they not worse than yours ? And because it *was* war, therefore were the people easily appeased.

26 ¶ Nevertheless, there were many that complained because the owners of the ships and those that sold the people's food did make them profits such as never before ; and many blamed the rulers that did countenance such things at a time when *there was* war.

27 ¶ Now there were certain men amongst the scribes and they did wage them the war *on paper.*

28 And, *of these*, Belloc did write him for the great captains and for them in authority, that

*they might read and learn and receive his commandments.*

29 And Blatch did write him for the common soldier, wherefore the violence of his words was a thing for delight, demolishing all contrary argument.

30 And Garv did write him *so that all might read*. And because *there was nothing that this man did leave unwritten*, therefore did those that followed him perforce forego their sabbath meal.

31 And there was also Horatio, being he that did for ever step into the breach; yea, even into the breach that was not

there did he stop; and he wrote concerning righteousness and blood.

32 And there were also others in great number, and all did write them freely and as men that did know.

33 And when the captains did not do those things that had been written down for their instruction, then was there much anger amongst the war scribes, and they did gnash their teeth in rage.

34 Wherefore they were continually provoked beyond endurance, and they wrote them more because of it.

## CHAPTER III.

1 The rulers in En. 3 Concerning Herbert. 8 Concerning David. 11 Concerning Winston. 13 Concerning Walter. 14 Concerning Reginald. 19 Concerning Samuel. 20 Concerning Simon. 25 Concerning Masterman. 26 Concerning Augustine. 29 Concerning Grey. 33 Concerning John. 34 Concerning Haldane. 41 Concerning Tennant. 42 Concerning the other rulers.

NOW these were the rulers in the land of En in the days when George that was the Fifth did reign and the Great War was begun.

2 There was Herbert, and David, and Winston, and Walter, and Reginald, and Samuel, and Simon, and Masterman, and Augustine, and Grey, and John, and Haldane, and Tennant; and there were also others, whereof the number was great beyond computation.

3 ¶ And Herbert was

the man that was responsible unto the people, and he did take the head place at the table whereat the rulers did sit. And there was in him an abundance of patience such as no man did ever have before; and he did keep the rulers together, all in one body.

4 And in time of discord he was like unto a gentle shepherd when the rams do fight, and them that spake angrily in the council chamber he did soften with honeyed words.

5 Nevertheless, there were some that did say wicked things concerning him, and they did compare him unto a woman that is advanced in years.

6 And Herbert had taken unto himself a wife.

7 And when the time came, he did leave the head place at the table whereat the rulers did sit, and he did go.

8 ¶ Now before that it was war, David was an hated man; yet was he also loved. And *afterwards* it came to pass that he was a much loved man, yet was he also hated.

9 And David did *many* things so that men spake abouthim, saying, Behold, he is like unto a skeleton key that fitteth all locks. And *whatsoever* there is need of, that thing will he surely do.

10 But because he was new made and *did* carry on, therefore he lost favour with certain of the Pharisees, and his name did *become* an abomination unto them. Yet, when *the time* came, he went up unto the head place at the table whereat the rulers did sit.

11 ¶ Now Winston was a wild youth and rash, hot of the tongue and venturous in his undertakings. Nevertheless, he was not lacking in understanding.

12 And because he was

like unto new wine when the vintage is good, therefore did they set him down in a place that was cool, *saying*, Peradventure, in a little time, there will be maturity.

13 ¶ And Walter was over all them that did deal in merchandise, and he sojourned amongst the rulers *during* many months. And the things that he *did* do, what man knoweth thereof? And when *the time* came, he did go.

14 ¶ Now Reginald was blessed with an heart that was overflowing with the milk of human kindness, and the lot of the immigrants from the land of Hu did move him mightily, so that he *did* weep tears.

15 And there were many of these men in the land of En, some of *them* being there that they might make money, and some of *them* were come for to spy out the land.

16 But Reginald *did*

scorn to make him a distinction between them, fearing lest some man should say, See, there is one that he favoureth.

17 Neither would he lay himself out to hinder any man that was earning his bread ; and the spies that were in the land, it was their means of livelihood.

18 Therefore did he uphold them, each man in his place, because he was Reginald. Wherefore there were many that conceived him weak unto foolishness. And when the time came, he did go.

19 ¶ And unto Samuel was given power over all the cities of En. And this man's name was not for ever in the mouths of the people, neither did they concern themselves at all with the things that he did do. Nevertheless, he was not an idle man. But when the time came, he did go.

20 ¶ Now Simon was a man that was strange in

his beliefs, neither was he an help in time of trouble. And there were some that, seeking the reason for his falling away in the time of his country's tribulation, did say he was possessed of a devil.

21 And he was a man peaceable beyond all reason, so that he did put himself against the patriots of the land of En when they did set them out for to wage war in a cause that was just.

22 And because he and those that were with him were as a voice that crieth in the wilderness, therefore he did get him out from the inner chamber wherein did sit the rulers of the land, and he did make one cause with them that did for ever carp and cavil.

23 And when the counsellors assembled together for to make them ordinances for the salvation of the country, then would Simon rise upon his feet and he would make him

an objection; therefore was he an hindrance unto them that did strive against the perils that beset the land.

24 And Simon was not loved in the country of En. Yet was he earnest in the things that he did do, being a man with a conviction that is founded amiss.

25 ¶ And he that was chief amongst all the rulers did say, on an occasion, Find thou me the man; then will I u. ' the office. So they found him Masterman. And when the time came, he did go.

26 ¶ Now Augustine was a great sage, and there was no man in all the land of En that did surpass him in the knowledge that is gotten of books. Therefore they did make him to rule over the land of Ire.

27 And on a time when he was deep in engagement with the words of the ancient Greeks, be-

hold, the men of Ire stole up secretly and they fell upon his servants so that many of them did die.

28 And when it was told unto Augustine what the men of Ire had done unto his servants, he was filled with a great wonder and his breast was torn with sorrow. And because it was a thing that liked him not, therefore did he remove himself from amongst the seats of the rulers, neither returned he thither again.

29 ¶ Now the chief of the scribes that did write unto the rulers of the nations concerning matters, his name was Grey, And he did send him epistles unto the four corners of the earth, saying this and saying that.

30 And to him there were given many tasks that were difficult, and he did not always find favour with the people; for there are some that look from afar towards the end, but the stones

that are upon the way, them do they count not at all.

31 And it was said concerning him that he was a man of strength in time of stress, but in the *leading up* and *afterwards*, then was he weak as twine that is boiled, and slow as water standing in a pond.

32 But many of the things that he *did* do were good, and his name was not without honour in the land. Yet when *the time* came, he did go.

33 ¶ John, that was also called Honest, was another of them that *believed* not in war. Therefore he did hide himself away in the shadows of oblivion; but he hindered not the rulers in their endeavour.

34 ¶ Now Haldane was the Keeper of the King's Conscience in the land of En, and he was a man that *was* learned in the ways of the men of Hu, for his spirit abode amongst them; and the

King of Hu, he *did* love him as a brother.

35 And the time came when all the people cried out with a loud voice, saying, Haldane must go! But because the winds did blow in an *high quarter*, he heard them not.

36 And there was a certain man and his name was Northcliffe. And it came to pass that when he cried out, behold, his voice *did rise even as* the winds, and it was above the shouts of all the other people.

37 And when Northcliffe had raised his voice for a long time so that his throat was raw, being like unto the flesh of a kid *that is* newly killed,

38 And when all the people had joined with him, shouting in a mighty voice that did *shake* the seats <sup>o'</sup> the rulers with the violence of its clamour,

39 Then did Haldane hear, and he hearkened unto them.

40 And the people rejoiced them exceedingly, thinking it not good for one that had been *in with* the men of Hu to hold an high position in the land.

41 ¶ Now Tennant was adroit of the tongue. And when certain of *the* counsellors questioned him closely, seeking that they might entrap him, he would answer them with a multitude of words; nevertheless

would he not say *anything*. And when *the time* came, he did go.

42 ¶ And concerning the *other* rulers of the land of En *at the beginning* of the Great War, is it not written in the Book of Stubbs? Both their names and the streets wherein they did have *their* habitations, thou shalt find them in that Book in *the order* that is of the alphabet.

## CHAPTER IV.

1 *The caution of the rulers.*  
4 *They make them a censor.*  
11 *The people complain.*  
14 *They tell the people more.*  
15 *And appoint Balf to speak concerning the navy.*  
20 *He doeth so.* 26 *And becometh a laughing stock.*

NOW when the rulers of the land made them a war, they became very wary, fearing lest their enemies should discover those things that they had in store for them.

2 And they said, the one unto the other, It were prudent to say nothing unto the common people *concerning* what we have done. In this manner shall we preserve their peace of *mind*, and it will be a means also whereby we may throw dust in the eyes of the men of Hu. But *after* it is all over, then will we tell the people.

3 And because the

thing that they did contemplate was not possible, therefore were they constrained to tell unto the people *certain things* concerning the war and *how* went the day.

4 ¶ Nevertheless, they were affrighted lest the people should learn *too much*, and so they made them a censor. And this was one that would say, This is so, and this only; the rest, it is not so.

5 And they that sold news unto the people were vastly provoked, for it liked them not to be told *the things* that they should say; also was it an hindrance unto them to be circumscribed by the truth.

6 And when they came into the presence of the censor and bowed themselves low before him (for he was a great man), he would have none of them.

7 And he would say unto them, These three lines, *they are* official: but the other things that *have* happened, they did happen not at all.

8 And those amongst the newsdealers that did *know something* would foam at the mouth in the violence of their rage. And *they* would spit upon the floor and would utter deep curses.

9 And because *he was* an orderly man, therefore did the censor make him a scheme for the better administration of all *those things* that were within his authority. And the scheme that he did make, *it was* this.

10 After a thing had become known in the land of Hu for *the space* of thirty days, then would he deliberate in his mind concerning it. And if it seemed good *unto him*, after seven days had passed he would impart it unto the people.

11 ¶ And there was a

great outcry throughout all the land, for this was but one of *many things*. Verily, the patience of Job was not tried as the patience of the men of En in the days when they waged war.

12 And the people said unto the rulers, Why do ye these things, ye *men* of little understanding? Are we children that ye treat us thus, and have ye no faith in the strength of *our* conviction?

13 All *those things* that are safe for us to know, them shall ye tell unto us. And if the tidings be good, assuredly we will rejoice. And if the tidings be bad, they shall but serve to fortify our purpose. The tempest disturbeth the waters, the tempest *revealeth* the rock.

14 ¶ And the rulers heard what the people did say, and they hearkened unto them. And *they said* unto him that was the censor, The peo-

ple are complaining because they know not how goes the day. Therefore shalt thou tell them more about it: but take care that it be not much more. And he did that which the rulers had told him to do.

15 ¶ And the rulers of the land did also call unto them a certain man, and his name was Balf. And he was over all the vessels of war, a mighty force, supreme upon the seas.

16 And they said unto him, Because thou art thou, therefore shalt thou say unto the people whatsoever seemeth good unto thee.

17 For thou hast a wise head and a still tongue, and whatsoever thou sayest, it will not be too much.

18 Now it came to pass that the vessels of the men of En did fight with the vessels of the men of Hu in a great battle, and it raged for a long time.

19 And before it was come to an end, behold, the vessels of the men of Hu did steal away quickly and did hide them in a mist, for the day had not gone well with them, and they were sore afflicted.

20 ¶ And when word was brought unto Balf concerning the battle, and concerning the numbers that had perished on both sides, he did call the people unto him, and he spake unto them, saying,

21 Woe is this day that hath brought desolation unto En. Know ye, O my brothers, how many be slain of them that sailed against the men of Hu? Assuredly, the number thereof, it is very great. And of the vessels of war, there be many destroyed. Verily is this a day that is full of woe.

22 And when the people heard that which he did say unto them, they were perturbed beyond measure, fearing they knew not what.

23 And after a certain time had passed by, he called the people unto him again, and he spake unto them, saying, *Wherefore* are ye perturbed and *why* cast down ?

24 Listen unto me, ye men of gloom, and rejoice at my words. For in that battle whereof I have told you, *many* perished that sailed from En; but amongst the men of Hu there was carnage *that was* great beyond compare. And that day did see our adversary vanquished in the fight.

25 And they that heard him were amazed and said, the one unto the other, What *strange* fruits, *these*, of his philosophy !

26 ¶ But the newsmongers gloried in his foolishness, because he was the mouthpiece of the rulers.

27 Nevertheless, he that *was* the censor relaxed not his vigilance, so that nothing was known in the land of En save only *those things* that were necessary for to quiet the people.

## CHAPTER V.

1 Concerning the changes that were wrought by the war.  
 2 The debtors are given grace.  
 4 Strong drink becometh hard to get. 10 It groweth difficult to make a journey.  
 16 The bazaars are closed as an early hour. 20 Much money is earned by the workers. 22 The manner of spending it.

AND these are certain of the things that did come to pass in the land of En during the days of the Great War.

2 ¶ Now immediately that there was war, grace was given unto them that were in debt; and that which they did owe, for a certain time they did not pay it.

3 Therefore was the war a mixed blessing unto such as these, and in those places that are beyond the Gate of Notting Hill, the days of grace were welcomed with the sound of timbrels and there was much rejoicing.

4 ¶ And those that drank not strong drink set them to work. And they concealed their purpose beneath the shadow of the war, and they prevailed upon the rulers to be an help unto them.

5 And so it was that the doors of the taverns were closed against the people save only for five hours during the day; neither was it lawful for them to buy any strong drink from the publicans except at the time appointed.

6 In this wise did the water bibbers advantage their object, for they had rightly conceived that the war was an hefty lever wherewith to work their will.

7 And those that drank of the juice of the grape did become quick at the swallow, for the time that they did have, it was short.

8 And the preachers

and all those that did meddle with the independence of the people were filled with pious joy, and they rejoiced in their tabernacles of stone and of tin, and in their habitations also, saying, Thus are the wicked punished and the thirsty sent empty away.

9 And because the publicans were the people to *go for*, and they did know it, therefore did they not complain; and the cocoa gulpers triumphed on that day.

10 ¶ Now there were many sojourning in the land of En that came of an hostile country. And because *they were* a danger unto the state, therefore did the rulers make new laws concerning *them*.

11 And to *this* end, whosoever did travel unto certain places was commanded to write him his name in a book that was at the inn where he did rest.

12 Now when a man

and a woman did journey unto the sea and did sojourn there *for a weekend*, then would they say unto all and sundry, Behold, a priest has licensed us to do this thing, for *we are* wed.

13 And sometimes it was so: but there were some that did lie about it, hoping *perchance* to save them lodgment money, or fearing to offend the righteous.

14 Therefore was the new law a cause of vexation unto them, for to write in a book their true names, it was not wise; and to write them names that were false, it was a dangerous thing and costly withal.

15 And though many complained in secret, nevertheless, there was no *change* made in the law, for the rulers of the land did rightly own no knowledge touching such affairs; and they that did transgress did pay the penalty.

16 ¶ And it was ordained that all the bazaars throughout the land should close them their doors at eight hours after midday.

17 Yea, even unto them that sold tobacco and unto the vendors of sweet stuffs was the mandate sent. And because these were used to ply their trades by night as well as by day, therefore did the order seem the more amazing unto them.

18 And the damsels like it not because of their stomachs. And when a man did go for to buy him cigarettes and it was too late, he would utter maledictions upon the doorstep; and the next time he would remember.

19 And in the time of his extremity the married man did borrow from his wife; and it did cost him dear because she did have her price. Verily, whatsoever she desired, that did she get out of him,

for the moment was favourable unto her purpose.

20 ¶ And many were put to labour on munitions, and they did work them long hours at a goodly recompense.

21 And when the week was come unto its end, then did they receive their hire; and because it was a lot of money, they knew not what to do with it.

22 ¶ And some bought them musical instruments; wherefore was there great complaining amongst those that lived round about, for the noise that they did make was as the harmony of the damned.

23 And amongst the women, there were some that bought them feathers and ribands of a gaudy hue; and they adorned themselves most wonderfully.

24 And whensoever they ventured forth into the public places, there

was a stir amongst the populace. Yea, verily, from the north unto the south, and from the east unto the west, wheresoever they appeared, the people were amazed at the strangeness of their garb.

25 But there were many that *being* full of wisdom and *aflame* with love of En, did lend a part of that *which* they earned unto the rulers of the land *for* to buy them munitions of war.

26 And, howsoever much it was, it did breed them profits during every year that it was *away*, so that they prospered and became men of substance.

27 Nevertheless, there was fear *in them* that when the war was come to an end the rulers would take from each *so much*, saying unto him, A good and faithful servant hast thou been and prudent, and thou *wast* an help unto us *when* we had need of thee. And now, listen:

28 Inasmuch as thy brothers have wasted their substance on idle *things* of no account, therefore are they become paupers, and they are hungerstarved.

29 But thou *hast* been saving in the past and thine hire has bred thee profits. Thy foresight has delivered thee from want *during* all the days of thy life.

30 Therefore shalt thou pay so much *unto each* of thy poor brethren, for in this wise they shall have subsistence that *will* keep them safe from want.

31 And the wasters winked them each the *left* eye, for they knew full well that when *the time* came that they were impoverished, then would the thrifty ones be taxed for to feed them.

32 For the frugal man *shall* sweat; but the waster, he *shall* lap it up. And so it *was* in the land of En.

## CHAPTER VI.

1 *The chief amongst the tax gatherers speaketh unto the people. 5 They hearken unto him. 9 Wherefore the price of paper increaseth. 13 The people are divided amongst themselves concerning the notes of paper. 17 The nature thereof. 19 The people lend their money unto the rulers. 26 And the land of En becometh mighty.*

AND because there was a war, therefore did he that was chief amongst the tax gatherers send word unto the people regarding what they should do. And he said unto them, Hearken unto me, all ye men of wealth, and obey my behests.

2 Ye know that the hosts of En are gone out against a mighty enemy, against a strong foe and one that is wary. And his armaments are terrible beyond anything seen by men before. Therefore it behoves us to gird up our loins for the fray, because

it will be a fight unto the death.

3 And all the gold that ye have, that bring ye unto me, and I will give you notes that are of paper in place of it. And whatsoever ye may buy with gold, that may ye also buy with the notes of paper.

4 And our strength will be great amongst the nations, for gold maketh a good ambassador. And we will buy us deadly engines of war and munitions in a great quantity, for a long purse sufficeth in all things.

5 ¶ And so the people did bring gold unto the rulers, some in pieces of ten, some in pieces of an hundred, and some in pieces of a thousand. Verily, whatever gold the people did have, that did they bring with them.

6 And as the people delivered their gold unto the one appointed, he would

say unto them, How many pieces of gold hast thou brought, brother ? And he would answer him, *say*ing, Such and such a number have I brought.

7 And he would exchange him the gold for notes of paper, *even* one note of paper for each piece of gold that *he did* bring with him.

8 And the weight of gold that was exchanged in those days, it was very heavy, *so that* it did take seven hundred seventy and seven thousands of elephants for to move it.

9 ¶ And the number of the notes of paper was *beyond* all counting. Wherefore there was a dearth of paper in the land and the price of it became an high one.

10 And they that were dealers in books demanded five shekels of silver for their wares ; and *before*, they did ask only four shekels of silver and six pieces of copper.

11 Nevertheless, there

yet remained *some* in the land that bought them books *for* to read : and *the rest* of the people, recking not the waste of paper, did take up their pens, and they did write. And Artemas, the scribe, he was one of these.

12 ¶ And because it was not the custom in the land of En to use notes of paper, save amongst them *that were* rich, therefore were the people divided among themselves *concerning* it, whether it were for an advantage.

13 And those that were careless in their manner of living, they liked it not. But the others, they *were* content, for the notes of paper were without weight, and the space that they did occupy, it *was* small.

14 And when a man, *thinking* it a bill that was not paid, did throw away a note of paper that was worth twenty shekels of silver, then would he curse aloud, using *new* words,

and he would affright the passers-by with the violence of his lamentations.

15 And because the notes of paper were thin and did stick themselves together, therefore did a debtor, being unaware, sometimes give the worth of two pieces of gold unto him to whom he owed but one.

16 And this man also would sorrow cursefully and he would tear his hair. And Willi, that was the cause of it, he would consign him unto the nethermost part of Hell.

17 ¶ And the notes of paper were not alike, being writ in two colours; and the one colour, it was black, and the other colour, it was red.

18 And one of those that were writ in black was as much as two that were writ in red; wherefore, and because they were passing rare, they found great favour in the eyes of the people.

19 ¶ Now it came to pass that the rulers did have a need of money for to buy them implements of war. And they sent word unto the people concerning it.

20 And immediately there arrived at the receipt of custom a great multitude of men, each man bearing upon his back a weight of money, according to his means. And they jostled, the one against the other, in their haste to be first.

21 And they said unto the rulers of the land, All that which we have brought with us, that do we lend unto you. Go ye out, therefore, and buy ye the things that are necessary. Neither shall ye stint yourselves in the matter, but rest assured that whatsoever more ye shall require, it shall be forthcoming.

22 And the notes of paper that they did bring unto the rulers of the land were in number as the blades of grass in a

meadow that extendeth out of sight. Yea, even more than the words of the rulers was the number thereof, notwithstanding that the jaws of these were for ever agitated.

23 So the rulers of the land did set out for to buy them munitions of war in a great quantity ; even all that which they did require did they set out for to buy.

24 And all the merchants of the world came

in unto them and displayed their wares before them ; and they were eager for to make the bargain and to traffick with the rulers.

25 For the power of money was great in that time, and the things that it could not do, they were not.

26 ¶ And because the people brought unto the rulers money that was of a value beyond calculation, therefore was the might of En felt throughout all the world.

## CHAPTER VII.

1 *The country is bereft of its young men.* 2 *The rulers send unto the women.* 3 *Who make them munitions of war.* 4 *And sell merchandise in the bazaars.* 8 *And watch over the people.* 11 *They receive much money.* 14 *Concerning a certain man that imbibed too freely.* 23 *The women work on the land.* 34 *They rebel.*

**N**OW it came to pass that all the young men went forth for to fight, and there remained only those that were old or infirm and some that had sneaked them through.

2 ¶ *And because there was much work to be done, therefore did the rulers of the land send word unto the women, saying, Come ye unto the workshops of the cities and there do all those things that the young men were wont to do. And they came as with one accord.*

3 ¶ *And they did make them munitions of war of*

*many kinds, and did become skilled artificers, both in metal and in wood; and they rested not from their labours, save only on the days appointed.*

4 ¶ *And there were others that did sell merchandise in the bazaar. And so it fell out that when a man went forth for to buy him under-vestments, the damsel that was in the bazaar would say unto him, What is thy need, O son of man ?*

5 *And he was ashamed to tell her all that which was in his heart, and he knew not what to say; wherefore was he halting in his speech and his countenance did take on the colour of blood.*

6 *But the maiden that did tend unto his wants, she was in no wise disquieted, and she did beseech him to impart unto her the name of the thing.*

7 *And, afterwards, she*

did hold up the leg of the garment for appraisement and did raise her voice in praise of it. And the young man was brought into a *proper state* upon the instant, so that he did buy whatsoever she did shew unto him. And his going out from that place *was* quicker than his coming in.

8 ¶ And there were women appointed for to see that the people did no wrong thing. And certain of these did betake them on the dark nights unto the quiet places *at a time* when the mating season was nigh.

9 And they did flash them a light *on those* that were unready; but those that did know *about it*, them did they find better circumstanced.

10 And the people liked it not, for there was no place that was safe unto them, and the course of true love was *an hard one* and much beset with spies.

11 ¶ And because the

women were given high places in the land, therefore was their recompense high *also*, and the money that they did earn, *it was* a large sum.

12 And so it came to pass that certain men that were mean of spirit forsook their labours and *became* idle. And when men spake unto them *concerning it* and upbraided them, they answered them, saying, Wherefore should we go *about it*? And why should we toil? Are not our wives diligent, and do they not provide for us according to their means?

13 And they that heard them were filled with a great aversion, and they were glad in their hearts that in all the land of En there *were* few men like unto these.

14 ¶ Now there was a certain man and he did imbibe of the juice of the grape in a manner that was no<sup>t</sup> wise.

15 And every night when he returned unto his

habitation he was full up with strong drink ; and because he sought his bed-chamber *in vain*, therefore would he make him a couch upon the mat *that was* nigh unto the gate.

16 And it was a sore trial unto his wife, *for* she knew not what to do. And she did cast about in her mind, seeking to devise some means whereby to make him whole.

17 And because she was a woman wise beyond the most, being also strong and lusty, *therefore* did she contrive a plan ; and she became one of *them* that looked after the people.

18 And the same night when her husband returned unto her, walking in soulful meditation *because* he was drunk, then did she go forth for to greet him ; and she came *upon him* in the way.

19 And she called unto her two women, mighty of stature, that were lying in ambush near by. And

the muscles of their arms were *of a size* and their strength was very great. And they *took* him.

20 And it came to pass upon the Morrow that he was brought *before* the judge. And when he had heard all that the women had to say, he said unto him, *Assuredly thou art a guilty man.*

21 For thine indiscretion thou shalt be mulcted in forty shekels of silver ; and if thou payest not *upon* the nail, then shalt thou be cast into prison, there to remain *during* fourteen days.

22 And because he was a wise man when the morning *was come*, therefore he *paid* up ; and he returned unto his home much chastened. And from that day forth he put all strong drink away from him, *wherefore* he *was* called Tam-ed, which signifieth, One that hath *been* through it.

23 ¶ Now when the harvest was ripe, and there

were no labourers in the fields for to gather it in, the husbandmen *that were* on the land became cast down and they did make them an outcry.

24 And certain women approached unto them, and said, Wherefore are ye cast down, ye wealthy men of the fields ?

25 Behold, we and our sisters will gather in the standing corn, and *in the* winter we will prepare the grounds for the crops that are *to be*.

26 And because it is not *in them* to be otherwise, therefore the husbandmen changed not their countenances that were woeful ; but they said unto the women,

27 Forget ye not that *ye are* what ye are. Nevertheless, because ye say it, *therefore* it shall be so. First shall ye reap the harvest, and afterwards shall ye do the *other* things whereof ye speak.

28 And so the women laboured all day in the

fields. And they did take them cooling drinks *amongst* the corn when the sun was high, and they did eat cream *that was* rich unto yellowness, and *also* pasties in abundance. Nevertheless, when night was come they *did* sleep ; neither did the things that they had eaten lie *heavy upon their* stomachs.

29 And so the harvest was gathered in and there was much rejoicing because *of it*. But amongst the husbandmen there was only foreboding, for *such* do never rejoice.

30 And when the cold of the year was come, the husbandmen spake unto the women, saying, Now is the time when ye shall go forth to prepare the ground for the crops that are *to be*.

31 And so the women went forth. And when they had come unto the place appointed, behold, there was a great heap before them, and *it was*

manure. And the husbandmen drew nigh and they said unto the women,

32 All this shall ye spread upon the fields, and *more* also. And it shall come to pass, after that *ye have* digged it in, that the earth shall be renewed; and the crops that ye shall sow, *these* shall flourish exceedingly. And the husbandmen went their way.

33 Now the heap *that was* manure, it was an abomination; and the stink thereof was so great that the women did cover over their nostrils with cambric and with pieces of fine lace.

34 ¶ And they followed after the husbandmen with one accord, and spake unto them, saying, We did gather in your corn, *even*

the oats and the barley did we reap for you: and the hay, we did *make* it into stacks.

35 And the husbandmen answered them, *saying*, Verily all these things whereof ye speak, *them* did ye do.

36 And the women said unto them, The scent of the harvest was sweet unto our nostrils; but this heap *that is* manure, it is a stinking thing, and we will have none of it.

37 So they turned them about and hied them unto the cities for to become scribes. And they *did* spend the wages of their first week's hire upon a measure of choice perfume. Nevertheless, the stink of the heap *that was* manure abode with them during many days.

## CHAPTER VIII.

1 The rulers make them new laws. 2 And close the bazaars. 5 They give more light. 9 They tax the profits that were made because of the war. 13 Bribery flourisheith. 15 The petrol is conserved. 18 They that seek after pleasure are taxed. 20 The taxes are paid gladly. 23 Concerning commissions. 29 And Northcliffe.

TAKE heed, all ye that read, and pay attention, for these are the things that the rulers of the land of En did lay upon the people at a time when there was war.

2 ¶ Now they did make them a law and did enjoin upon all the dealers in merchandise that they should cease from trafficking in the market places in the youth of the night ; yea, at eight hours after midday were they constrained to stop from selling their wares and merchandise.

3 And the reason there-

of was uncertain, some saying it was for a means of saving fuel, whilst others did say it was because those that served in the bazaars were few and needed them rest.

4 But there were many that did say it was but the spirit of interference that was rife in the land ; and they were filled with suspicion, thinking that the early closers were grinding them *their* axe.

5 ¶ And in the summer season the rulers did give unto the people more light. And it was the light of day that they bestowed, but upon the doings of the war they shed no more light.

6 Now the giving of more light was one of the things that the rulers did wisely, wherefore the people did praise them ; and they were amazed, for it was not the custom amongst the men of En

to praise the rulers of the land.

7 Neither was there often cause therefor, for a wise ruler is precious *beyond* price, howbeit many a fool is raised unto an high place;

8 For the fool speaketh *sometimes* wisdom, and it is recorded. But the foolishness of fools do men forget.

9 ¶ And certain men did set them about for to find a means whereby they might *make* a good *thing* out of the war.

10 And when word was brought unto the rulers *concerning* what they were doing, they did make them a law. And they did take unto themselves a certain share from the profits that *these* men did gather in.

11 And those that were at one with the patriots complained not; and those that were making them *enough*, neither did these complain.

12 And they that did

do things for the rulers *out of* the generosity of their hearts, even these went not empty away.

13 ¶ And there were certain men amongst the servants of the rulers that did ask for *sweet* oil, and they did say unto the traders, Grease thou the palms of our hands that we *may* bargain with thee to thy advantage.

14 And those that were found out were cast into prison, and their names did stink *most* vilely *throughout* the length and breadth of the land.

15 ¶ And because it was a prudent thing *to do*, the rulers gave unto them that had chariots only *so much* of what men called petrol as was left over. And the hosts of En did receive their portion before all others.

16 Therefore those that were wealthy amongst the people used not their chariots *save* when there was need; and they that were used to joy ride,

they did do so no more.

17 For in all matters were the people ready to make them sacrifices unto the needs of the war, and they did do all those things that were required of them for to bring nearer the end of it.

18 ¶ And a tax was made upon all those that did go unto the theatre ; yea, even upon them that did view the pictures and upon them that did watch men playing with a ball, was the tax imposed.

19 And because it was not much, and was, moreover, a righteous tax, they did pay it gladly ; and the number of them that did go unto such places, it was not less than before.

20 ¶ And there were other taxes also and they were exceeding heavy, so that all the money that was paid by the people unto the tax gatherers was great beyond any-

thing that men had thought possible.

21 Nevertheless there was no murmuring in the land, and the people did push, the one against the other, to be first at the receipt of custom, every man with his money in his hand.

22 And he that was the chief amongst all the tax gatherers was amazed. And he spake unto several concerning it, saying, Are not these that do shower their gold upon me the same that before did curse my name ? When I asked for a mite, they reviled me shamefully ; yet, now I ask for much, behold, they bring it flowing over. For he understood not that this was the spirit of the nation.

23 ¶ Now when there was any matter that was beyond the rulers so that they knew not what to do, they would appoint them a commission for to inquire concerning it.

24 And a commission was an assembly of wise men *that were* sometimes foolish; and they would gather themselves together, and they would question all and sundry, and they would talk.

25 But lest they should do *some thing* in their carryings on, the rulers would give them instruction and would speak unto them, saying,

26 Go ye into a room apart and *gather round*. And send the young men into the highways and into the byways that *they may* bring unto you all them that know aught concerning *the matter*. And whatsoever they may say unto you, that shall ye hear.

27 Afterwards, ye shall make us a report, for *that* doeth injury unto no man. But woe be unto you if ye shall do *anything* that exceedeth our commandment; verily shall our wrath burn thee up, and thy bones shall fall away into dust.

28 By this means did the rulers put away for a long time those things that *were* vexatious unto them, having faith in the memory of the people that *it was* short. Therefore was a commission unto the rulers *as* a bag of sand unto him that fighteth, for it was a *shield*. And the day was not known *whereon* the rulers appointed them not a commission.

29 ¶ But there was a certain man and his name was Northcliffe. And the people were divided into two camps concerning him, some saying that he *was* a raiser of scares, whilst others did say that he *knew things*. And all were agreed that he was a thorn in the side of the rulers.

30 And when a commission did bring its report unto the rulers, then did *these* retire unto the privacy of their bed-chambers. And the report they did take with

*them* for to be a pillow unto their heads.

31 And Northcliffe would raise his voice on high and he would say many bitter words. And he would arouse them and would make them *to do* things.

32 And though many were against him *because of it*, the good that he did do was manifest. And because he left not the rulers to sleep, therefore did men call him Helsabout, which meaneth The Awakener.

## CHAPTER IX.

1 *Darkness in the cities.* 5 *The young things rejoice.* 7 *And love flourishest.* 10 *Many errors are committed.* 14 *Concerning what happened unto a certain young man.* 27 *The reason thereof.* 30 *One pardoneth the little boys.*

**N**OW the rulers sent them word unto all the cities, saying, Let there be no light; and there was no light.

2 And every man did hide his candle under a bushel, else did he pay for his rashness in many shekels of silver. Yea, there was even darkness upon the highways and in those places where the people did pass to and fro. And the darkness did breed confusion.

3 Now they that lived in Lon were in two minds concerning it. And some that did sell merchandise in the bazaars, they did make them a noise, being perturbed because of their

pockets. And there were others that did utter loud manifestations of joy. And the old women that were there, these ventured not forth after the sun was set.

4 And they that were dealers in merchandise did make loud lamentations and did put on sack-cloth and ashes, saying, Wherefore should we sit in darkness? And why cry our wares in the shadow? And because men knew them, therefore they heeded them not.

5 ¶ But amongst the young things of the city there was great rejoicing, for the mandate, it was welcome unto them.

6 And they said, the one unto the other, Behold, it is dark. Let us, therefore, advantage ourselves somewhat.

7 ¶ And they did hie them in pairs unto the

quiet places; verily, every male did take with him a female as *his* companion, and they did talk of love.

8 And because the Bishop of that city was *against* love, and because there were many sojourning there *that did* pry, therefore did the swains speak *low*, fearing lest the eavesdroppers should come upon them.

9 And there were *many* that did plight their troths, because it was their opportunity; and many promises *were* given in vain.

10 ¶ And because it was dark, women of strange countenance *did* get them off *with men*, for a cheek that was fair as the petals of the hyssop was *of no avail* in the night time.

11 Even so, there was many a woman that did lose *her man* ere the passing of the first lamp. And he that was once bit, on the next occasion he did

carry a torch in his hand for to see what *it was*.

12 And if a man *did* bump him into his own wife, he would say polite things, *for* he did not know her;

13 And because he did say polite things, *therefore*, neither would she know him. And strange things did happen because of it.

14 ¶ Now it came to pass that a certain man was returning *unto* his habitation at an hour when the night was far gone.

15 And it was the custom in that city to travel in a carriage that did go in part beneath the ground; and the reason thereof was *because it was* quick.

16 And, behold, as he proceeded on his way and was come nigh unto the place of his abode, suddenly a great darkness overcame him so that he became as one that is blind.

17 And all the people that were with him in the carriage were dismayed and they did rise upon *their* feet, and did mingle, the one with the other.

18 And he that had authority in *that* carriage spake unto them and commanded them that they should sit down. And they sat them down.

19 And it came to pass that, after the young man had sat him down, behold, his right hand was taken from him and it was squeezed.

20 And even as he pondered on this strange thing that was happening unto him, behold, he was bereft of his left hand also, and it was squeezed.

21 And he was taken unawares and knew not what to do, for he was a young man and righteous, and *he was* married unto a wife.

22 Therefore, he sat him still and did wait for whatsoever might come

unto him. And, lo, presently there was a kiss given unto him upon the left cheek; and, afterwards, was there a kiss upon his right cheek also.

23 Yea, both upon the right cheek and upon the left cheek did he get him the kisses, and it was for a long time.

24 And the kisses that did fall upon his left cheek were a warming lot and pleasurable; and the others, they were cold. Therefore did he turn him about for to lean towards the side that was hot.

25 And, behold, his cheeks were seized upon the instant between two hands that were soft; and the one that was upon his left side did kiss him with *earnestness* upon the mouth so that he trembled at the touch. And because he was *become* enamoured of the pastime, therefore did he return the kiss for a long spell.

26 And even while it yet happened, the light was returned unto the carriage, and he did see.

27 ¶ And, behold, upon his right hand did sit a man that was lately come back from the wars ; and she that was upon his left hand was a damsel very comely to look upon and blushing red.

28 And because it was a mistake, therefore was he not kissed *again* either upon the right cheek, or upon the left cheek, or yet upon the mouth.

29 And when he returned him unto his house, he did get him silently unto his bedchamber. Neither told he his wife anything about it, fearing lest *she would* not understand.

30 ¶ And concerning another man, it is written that he did tie a piece of white cloth unto *the gate*

of his house so that he might know it whereabouts when the moon was not high.

31 And the small boys of the neighbourhood did come and they took away the piece of white cloth that was upon the gate and they did tie it unto the portal of an house wherein there lived a certain woman, of pleasing mien and fair to look upon ; and her husband was gone to the wars.

32 And when the young man returned unto his habitation, behold, the piece of cloth that he did leave, it was not there ; and he was deceived so that he entered in unto the wrong house.

33 Nevertheless, the young man did forgive the boys of the neighbourhood for the thing that they had done unto him.

## CHAPTER X.

1 *The beginning of Flag Days.*  
 7 *The nature thereof.* 10  
*The plight of the males.*  
 14 *Their efforts to escape.*  
 17 *The generosity of the people.* 19 *The disadvantage of a new alliance.*

**N**OW it came to pass that those who were in the land of En made them a custom, and they did sanctify certain days of the year unto charity.

2 And the days that were sanctified they did call Flag Days.

3 Now these are certain of the Flag Days that were set aside unto charity in the land of En in the days of the Great War.

4 There was Our Day, and Star and Garter Day, and Roll of Honour Day, and Red Cross Day, and Blue Cross Day.

5 And there was France's Day, and Russia's Day, and Serbia's Day, and Italy's Day, and Montenegro's Day, and

Roumania's Day, and Portugal's Day.

6 And there were other Flag Days in great number so that I, even I, Artemas, the scribe, remember not one half.

7 ¶ And on a day that was a Flag Day the young maidens of the cities would gather themselves together ere the morning was weaned, and they would set out.

8 And they would hide them unto the populous places of the cities and they would place themselves in ambush behind the corners of the streets ; yea, each one would take unto herself a certain corner as her own, and she would lie low.

9 And when any man approached nigh unto the place where she was hid, then would she spring out on a sudden and she would tackle him.

10 ¶ And she would pin

a flag unto his garment, even unto the lapel of his coat would she pin her flag ; and whatsoever money he did have for to buy him bread, that would she take from his pouch for to pay her, wherefore he needs did fast.

11 And there was no way of escape open unto him, for the young girls of that time were a slim lot and they *knew* the manner of working it.

12 And so it came to pass that, when the night was come, the damsels that had sold them flags were bowed down beneath a great weight of gold. And the men that *had* paid, these were sent empty away.

13 And they returned unto their habitations, each man being wonderfully adorned ; yea, from the crowns of their heads unto the *turn-up* of their nether garments *were they gay* with coloured flags.

14 ¶ Now there were certain men that, seeking

to throw dust in the eyes of the sellers of flags, did build them dungeons underneath the ground, saying, with a sly look, It will be a safe place if, perchance, a Zeppelin *cometh nigh*.

15 Nevertheless, on a night when the Zeppelins did hover *above them*, then were they on the roofs of their habitations with glasses that did magnify ;

16 But on the days that *were Flag Days*, then did they betake themselves stealthily away and they did hide in the far corner of the Zeppelin dungeon that was deepest down.

17 ¶ And because much good flowed from the Flag Days, and because the number of mites that was gathered in was very great, therefore *did* the people *stick* them, each man giving according to his means.

18 Yea, even those that did retire unto their Zeppelin cellars did give to an *extent*, for the young girls

followed them thitherwards, so that there was no means of escape left unto them; verily, they were like unto a spider that is caught in the meshes of its own web.

19 ¶ Wherefore it came to pass that when another nation did join with the people of En, and did fight with them against the men of Hu, there were some in the land that did foresee things, and their hearts misgave them.

20 And when one spake chidingly unto them, saying, Why do ye not rejoice,

O men of little satisfaction? Behold, there is yet another that fighteth with us. Then would they make answer and would say, Assuredly is there another ally come to join us. And there is also another Flag Day that bringeth greater persecution at the corners of the streets. And they were full of foreboding concerning it.

21 But the Flag Days found favour amongst the women of the land, for then was man delivered into their hands and they needed not to spare him.

## CHAPTER XI.

1 *The young men go out for to fight.* 2 *Many take unto themselves wives.* 11 *Some think it not wise.* 19 *Some transgress the law.* 22 *The matrons are rejoiced.* 23 *All the maidens would wed amongst the officers.* 27 *Concerning the damsels that were left over.*

NOW in the land of En the young men did hurry them away unto the war, and amongst the maidens there were many sad at heart.

2 ¶ And when the time drew nigh unto a young man that he must gird up his loins and go, then would he speak unto the damsel of his choice.

3 And he would say unto her, Thou knowest that there yet remaineth unto me only so many days; let us therefore arrange matters quickly that we be married.

4 And because the time was short and it was

her chance, she would answer and would say unto him, Thou art my lord, and whatsoever thou commandest, it shall be done. Let us therefore hasten about it lest, peradventure, we meet with an hindrance upon the way.

5 For the women of that time were a crafty lot and they did beguile their men with soft words; and the wiles of Bathsheba, that did wash herself, were as nothing in comparison to these, for they were full of artfulness.

6 And when she had told her mother and them that were about the place, she would take the young man unto the priest for to make them a day; and after it was in order, then would they go unto the ringmaker and she would try on whatsoever came unto her hand. Yea, many rings would she

place upon her finger ; but the ring that she did choose, that did she not try on, fearing lest it prove unlucky in the afterwards.

7 Now it happened in certain cases that the damsel needed not to furnish her with garments for the wedding, inasmuch as she was prepared, being ready *against the occasion*.

8 But when it was not so, then would the damsel set *about* it, and she would make *things* hum. And she and those that were related unto her and her handmaidens also, they would haste them unto the bazaars. And whatsoever was necessary unto the marriage, that thing would they buy ; and of the *things* that were not necessary unto the marriage, they would also buy them some of these.

9 And when the last minute was come, then would they send the old man for to buy that which was forgotten, saying un-

to him, Get thee quickly, thou fool. And he *would* get him quickly.

10 And when the hour was come for the young man to take the damsel unto him, behold, she *was* there. And throughout all the land of En there was no case known of a damsel that *did come* too late.

11 ¶ And because there was a great number of them that did wed in this wise, therefore was there much talk concerning it, both in the public places and in the habitations of the people.

12 And some *did* say it was a foolish thing to do. And they did speak dar'ly concerning the future, what it did hide, for it went *for a saying* amongst them that a marriage *that is hasty* bringeth early regret.

13 And others said, Let the young men wed. Verily, many go forth unto the wars but the number of *them* that return, it

is not so great. Therefore is it necessary for them that are of *an age* to make *them* families, else in what manner shall the nation endure.

14 And the young things heeded not these arguments, for they were young and did love. And whosoever loveth *enough*, he hath his justification.

15 But woe unto that man who taketh unto himself a wife for the sake of it ; a million tears will not suffice for to drown *her* in.

16 But he that marrieth his beloved in haste, seeking happiness, that man assuredly *hath* a dog's chance ; and he that taketh time *about* the business, is not his risk also great ?

17 And there were some that did marry for love and there were some that did marry for a pension ; but there were some that did marry because it was a discreet thing to do.

18 And the number of them that did marry was

beyond anything that men could remember, so that the priests did gather them an harvest of *exceeding* richness and they did bless the unions with many pious words.

19 ¶ Now certain men did take unto themselves more wives than one, which *was* a wicked thing to do, for in the land of En it was not lawful *for a man* to marry two wives.

20 And this was passing strange, for the seduction of a maiden was a thing that was *winked at*. Yea, the father of a child begotten guiltily, he was absolved by the payment of five pieces of silver every week. But the man whose wife did bear him a son, his *punishment* was greater than this.

21 And in those days was man judged according to a rule, and an hurt transgressing not the rule, that was forgiven unto him. And to marry two wives, *that was* against the rule ; but to keep two

score of concubines, that was a lawful thing to do.

22 ¶ And because there was war, therefore did many mothers pull off forlorn hopes at the last minute, which rejoiced them greatly. For there was much competition amongst the daughters of En, and the number of young men did not suffice for all.

23 ¶ And every maiden did seek for to get her an officer, for these were great men whom the common soldiers did salute in the public places, so that to walk with such an one was indeed pleasurable.

24 And there was much cackling in all the hen-roosts of the land of En, and amongst those families that did get them an officer there were loud manifestations of joy.

25 And the pride of these was beyond all telling, and they would hold up their heads on high and they would say unto them that did live next door,

Bow ye down before us and make obeisance. Know ye not that Miriam, our first-born, hath taken a captain to husband ?

26 And because they did know it and because their daughter had succeeded only as high as a corporal of the lance, they would bow themselves down and would speak words of flattery, for she that was wife unto a captain was a power in the confines of the cities.

27 ¶ But there were many maidens that no man took unto him for wife, and the days of these were bitter living ; neither did their sisters that had clicked refrain from telling them about it.

28 Wherefore some of the damsels that were left over did journey into the wilderness for to meditate concerning the matter, for the airs of a woman that is married are as a goad unto her that languisheth alone.

29 And so it came to pass that certain of them did get them war work from the makers of munitions, and certain of them did get them war babies

from no man knew whither. Yea, every one did act according to her lights and did do all those things that the occasion did demand.

## CHAPTER XII.

1 Concerning those that went not forth for to fight. 14 The rulers commune together on the matter. 17 And call out all the young men. 18 But certain are absolved. 25 Wherefore many are combed out. 29 And the people are satisfied. 31 Each man payeth for his own strong drink.

AND when the fighters had gone forth unto the war, there yet remained certain men that were strong and sound of limb. And every man that went not forth, *he had his reason.*

2 And some said, To kill men in battle is a wicked *thing*. Would ye therefore have us to go against our consciences ?

3 And when the people questioned these, they replied unto them, saying, The wise man giveth obedience unto his conscience lest it torment him ; neither is there any

escape from it. And we are men of wisdom.

4 And if one of the men of Hu shall ravish our eldest daughter, *then* shall we offer unto him she that is next unto her that he may ravish her also ; for so it is written.

5 And they that questioned them forbore to ask them more, deeming a conscience such as this was assuredly come from the devil.

6 And there were some that, being affrighted, hid themselves away. And the number of these was small and, when the time came, they were combed out.

7 And there were others that were grown selfish, because they did gain much recompense by their labours, and these were loth to leave their habitations. And they did say,

8 Wherefore should we go forth for to fight ? In

our houses there are many fires and the women do put them hot bricks into our beds so that our feet suffer not when the night groweth cold.

9 And if we go out for to fight, verily, the rain from heaven will fall upon us and it will make us wet. And a skin that is wet affecteth the nose.

10 And the food that we shall eat, it will lie heavy upon our stomachs; neither will the women sustain us with hot bricks.

11 And because of all these things, they went not forth unto the war until the time came when they were combed out.

12 And there were many men throughout the land that were willing to go at the time appointed, each man in his turn.

13 And these did say, Wherefore should we depart from our habitations and wherefore leave our wives amongst strange people? Send first the young men that are hang-

ing back; and, afterwards, when our time cometh, we shall be ready. And ye shall find us in the forefront of the battle.

14 ¶ And because that which they had said was just, therefore the rulers of the land could not gainsay them. And they communed together in the council chamber concerning it.

15 And some, knowing not the spirit of the people, did say, Let us now do nothing rash lest, if we call up all the young men, they raise an outcry throughout the land.

16 But there were others that said, It is sufficient that we have need of men for to send against the enemy. Let us therefore see about it.

17 ¶ And they overruled those that were against them, and did make them a law whereby all the young men were called out for to fight.

18 ¶ But they absolved them that were in

the workshops making the munitions of war, and acquitted them also *that were* plagued with a conscience.

19 And because the men of Ire said, We will not *have* it, therefore the rulers dared not to say *them* nay, for the men of Ire were rulers in the land of En.

20 And they appointed them tribunals, a mixed lot of men, so that *those* that were called out might show them *a reason* against it.

21 And because the net that was spread in the sight of the young men was wide *in the mesh*, therefore was the haul thereof fraught with disappointment. And the young men did work themselves free in ways that *were* various.

22 And some hied them unto the workshops to become makers of munitions of war, saying, the one unto the other, *By this means*, assuredly,

shall we save our skins. And for a long time it *was so*.

23 And others did cry their woes before the tribunals. And *the tales* that they did tell were pitiful indeed, and they did move the tribunals unto compassion *so that* they absolved them.

24 And the rulers, that did *ought* to set an example, made lusty youths for to be their scribes, and they did put them for to do women's work. And the number of *them* that were absolved in this wise became a crying shame that was *heard* throughout all the land.

25 ¶ And when the rulers were questioned hotly *concerning* these men and *concerning* those that had hidden themselves behind the rampart that *was* munitions, they bestirred themselves somewhat and did *comb* them out.

26 And the number that they did *comb* out

was very great. And because they had not done this thing before, but had waited until the people raised them a clamour, therefore were the rulers blamed exceedingly.

27 Nevertheless, those that rebelled against it because they did have consciences, these were not sent out for to fight.

28 But some of them were set to work upon matters of health, which was a loathsome duty and abhorred by them who, being without a conscience, went out against the enemy.

29 ¶ And when all the men that were of full vigour had been taken, there was an end to the murmuring of the people.

30 And all were of one mind that this thing should have been done before, for they saw that the taking was just, no man suffering beyond his neighbour, and every man fighting for his own.

31 ¶ Now it was made a law that whosoever should enter into a tavern for to buy him strong drink, that man must pay for his own.

32 And there were some, being them that drank beyond their means, that had a grievance because of it, for to pay for their own, they had forgotten the way.

33 Wherefore they did suffer exceedingly and were for ever dry; and their look, it was a thirsty one.

34 And when the damsels heard about it, they set them out for to find a means to circumvent it, for the thing was not agreeable unto them.

35 And when a maiden approached unto a tavern, being with a man that had a leaning towards her, then would she stop outside, and she would say unto him, Give thou unto me five pieces of silver that I may pay for mine own. And whatsoever re-

maineth over, that will I give thee back after we are come out.

36 And they would enter into a tavern. And she would call the serving man unto her and she would speak unto him in a soft voice, saying, Bring unto me a small portion of *that* wine which cometh from Oporto that I may nourish my bones.

37 And the serving man would bring it unto her, and he would set it down before her. And the damsel would pay for it out of the five pieces of silver that she had received from her man. And whatsoever was left over, *that* would she place in her purse.

38 And afterwards, she

would smile upon the man that was with her, and she would say unto him, Thy beard becometh thee well. Thou art strong and thy wisdom is great and thine eyes absorb me utterly. Verily doth thine handmaiden feel small in the sight of her lord.

39 All this would she say unto him, and more also; but concerning that which was remaining over from the five pieces of silver she would say no word.

40 And this is ever the way of women that by their artfulness they do *wangle* it, and whatsoever cometh up *contrary*, that do they work for to be an advantage unto them.

## CHAPTER XIII.

1 Concerning David. 7 His unpopularity amongst certain of the people. 9 The rulers disagree. 11 David speaketh out. 14 He findeth favour with his enemies. 17 The things that he did do. 24 He reacheth unto high office. 27 The Pharisees fall away from him. 29 His greatness.

NOW there was a certain man and his name was David, and his place was amongst the rulers of the land of En.

2 Though small of stature, yet was he of a fiery spirit, and the hair upon his face was as the bristles of a badger that is roused.

3 And his tongue was for ever loose and did wag itself continually, being like unto the tail of a small dog that scentheth its food from afar.

4 Now David was one of them that did come from the land of Cam, but the language of his

kindred did he speak only upon occasion;

5 And at other times he did speak as the men of En, save only when he delivered him a warning unto them that would butt in; and in such case his words were those of the land of Amer.

6 Now at the time when Willi did lead out his hosts for to fight, David was the chief tax gatherer in the land of En.

7 ¶ And his name was an abomination throughout the land. Men cursed him in the market places, in the sight of the publicans he was a thing unclean, and his name stank vilely in the nostrils of the priests.

8 Verily, to love En and David both, was not thought possible by many. Only amongst the Pharisees was it not so, and these men of little mind

did glorify him with a great praise.

9 ¶ Now it came to pass when the rulers of the land of En took counsel, the one with the other, concerning whether they should *make* them a war, there were some that did say, Let us make a war, for an honourable pledge *demandeth* fulfilment; nought can absolve a nation from its plighted word, and we are *what* we are.

10 And there were others that *were* the Pharisees, and they did say, Why hasten ye towards the shedding of men's blood? Better a peace that obeyeth divine precept than a war that upholdeth the word of a nation.

11 ¶ And when David heard the things that the Pharisees did say, behold, he arose from his seat in the council chamber and spake unto all *them* that were there.

12 And he lashed the

Pharisees with his tongue, sparing them not. And because he was *of* them, therefore were the words that he did say unto them passing apt, so that they *did* wriggle in their seats as worms that *are* upon an hot plate.

13 And them that would preserve the nation's honour at a cost of blood, these did he sustain with the strength of his doings and the whole might of his oratory.

14 ¶ And when the publicans and the priests and those that had cursed him in the market places were told what he had *done*, they were amazed that such a thing could come to pass.

15 And they said unto each other, What manner of man is this that hath for so long *been* against us, yet now speaketh our very minds?

16 And they raised him up and made him to be ruler over them, and he

did find more favour amongst those people than he had found amongst the Pharisees in the time that was gone.

17 ¶ And it came to pass that whatsoever *there was* to be done, that thing did David do; verily, his capacities were as manifold as the lies of a woman accused.

18 And they made him chief over the munitioners, and he did make him engines of war and instruments of siege, and other implements of battle also, the quantity whereof exceeded calculation.

19 And nobody throughout all the land excelled him in energy and in ingenuity of the mind. And he did even make the workers to work; and this was a thing that was never *before* known in the land of En.

20 And when the men of Ire, because they were never content, waxed angry, the one with the

other, and there was like to be rebellion amongst them, and there was need of a mediator for to judge between them,

21 Then the choice of the people fell upon David, and they did send him unto the land of Ire for to speak the soft word that charmeth away wrath.

22 And David went. And after he had finished speaking unto the men of Ire, he returned him unto his seat amongst the rulers.

23 And because *he was* the first man that did go for to pacify the men of Ire, yet stirred not up further strife, therefore was his name honoured above any, and poets did sing his praises on the feast days of the Eisteddfod.

24 ¶ And the rulers did choose him to succeed unto a great soldier, and they did place him over the hosts of En, making of him a mighty captain. And because the people

would have none other, therefore was he chosen.

25 And the work that was *already* begun, that did he continue. And he did make the hosts of En great beyond all conception, and the strength of En was as the foundations of the earth.

26 And his popularity with the people did grow day by day, wherefore men said, in jest, Behold, here *cometh* David, George that is the Sixth. And they that had hated him before did worship him as a god.

27 ¶ But the Pharisees knew not what to do, for he was become as a revelation unto them. Therefore did they say very little concerning him ; and

when it happened that they had occasion to utter his name, then would they do so with a sniff upon the word.

28 For *such is* the way of the Pharisees. And these do place peace above the honour of a nation and an unctuous word before the doing of a thing that is right. And in them there is no stomach for the fray.

29 ¶ But David cared not at all for such as these, and there was no man greater in all the land. And when *the time* came, he did sit upon the highest seat amongst the rulers of the land, because he was the chosen of the people, and they would have none other.

## CHAPTER XIV.

1 *The implements of war.* 8  
2 *The engines that did fly.*  
14 *Concerning the Mad Major.*  
25 *The men of En employ tanks.* 34 *Wherefore the men of Hu cry out.*

**N**OW these be the implements of war, and all these things did men use at that time when the nations of the earth banded themselves together for the fight.

2 Now there were guns of great magnitude that did hit hard so that there was nothing that could withstand them, and, against them, the fortifications of the cities were as snow when the sun cometh out.

3 And the guns did scatter death on all sides, above and about, so that there was no living thing left nigh unto the place where they did strike; and the compass of a gun, it was beyond the sight of human eye.

4 And there were mines that the engineers did make them underneath the ground; and all that which was above the ground, that did they scatter unto the heavens so that when it returned again to earth, behold, it was not.

5 Also was there gas, and it was made of a vile poison; and when any man did deeply breathe of it, that man would most assuredly die; and the manner of his death, it was terrible.

6 And they that first made use of the gas that was poison were the men of Hu, for it was in them to do so because their minds did travel unto such things.

7 And there was liquid that was fire, and it was sent against an host for to burn up the flesh of them that came in the way. And this was also

from the men of Hu and was bred of their refinement. And neither of these things did the nations of Eur use in any war that they did wage before.

8 ¶ And there were engines that did fly through the air, fearsome weapons of war that did deal out death and destruction from an ambush of clouds.

9 And they were of two kinda. And the Zeps were fat-bellied, being of the men of Hu.

10 These did carry on their goings out a great weight of matter that was death. And they did drop it at a venture so that it fell amongst peaceful dwellers in the land ; and the women and children that did perish by this means, it was a great number.

11 And there were also engines that did fly which men called planes : and these were of both sides. And they were speedy things and nimble.

12 And those that did ride in them were brave men and skilful. And the men of Hu prospered not with the planes save only in the flight, at which they were exceeding quick.

13 And so there came a time when the men of Hu forbore to go up into the air for to fight because the hazard of such an enterprise, it was very great.

14 ¶ Now the bravery of the warriors of En that did ride in the planes was in the mouths of all the peoples of the earth. And there was one whom men did call the Mad Major because of his daring.

15 And it was said concerning him that he and death played them a long game wherein the dice were loaded on the side of death.

16 And he would venture forth and would fly from the camp of the men of En until he came unto a place whence he could

see the hosts of Hu  
spread out beneath him.

17 Then would he choose him a target from amongst the strong places that were below, and he would swoop him down on a sudden so that he was but a few cubits on high.

18 And the men of Hu would use all manner of weapons against him, and they would send projectiles that did scatter about for to bring him down amongst them.

19 Yea, from the places that were nigh unto him and from the places that were afar off would they send of their munition, seeking only that they might slay him. And the heavens were filled with a multitude of balls so that men said, Verily, in the place where he is, in that place only is it possible for man to live.

20 And when he that was called the Mad Major was low enough, then would he drop him a

bomb. And it came to pass that all that which was underneath, it was destroyed, and the men that were there did assuredly perish.

21 Then would he ascend into the air unto a certain height, for that which he had come for to do, it was done.

22 And he would loop him a loop; yea, even over the hosts of Hu would he loop him a loop, for he was of a merry spirit and it was in him to laugh in this manner.

23 And when he had looped him a loop he would return unto the men of En, and he would say unto them, The bombs that thou gavest unto me went off. Give me, therefore, some more that I may dispose of them in likewise.

24 And he was not alone in the things that he did do, for there were many like unto him. And concerning the deeds of some thou shalt find it

## THE BOOK OF ARTEMAS [CH. XIV.]

writ in the books; but concerning many, thou shalt find no record of *their* deeds in the chronicles of that time.

25 ¶ And the men of En did make them chariots of strange and wonderful design, and they did call them tanks. And there was no man throughout all the land that did say, I made not this chariot; but every man did draw his neighbour unto the side, and did speak unto him privily, saying, Shush! Let it not be known. I tell thee that I, even I, did take an hand in this thing.

26 And the shape of the tanks was for a long time known only to the few. And some said they were like unto a lizard that is blown out mightily, that walketh as a man plagued with the corns.

27 And others said they were like unto an hippopotamus that doth wobble itself amazingly so that

no man knoweth whether it intendeth; yet, of a certainty, doth it get there.

28 And others said they were like unto nothing on earth, being for the most part belly of a fashion that is given unto no living thing.

29 And that which was a shield and a covering unto the tanks was tough past all belief; yea, even the hide of the rhinoceros did not compare unto this. And all the missiles that the men of Hu did send against it were as peas upon a roof that is whole, and it availed them nothing.

30 And in its gait it was like unto a man that hath taken strong drink, having first devoured much rice. For in such case does the belly grow big and the footsteps do become unsteady. Wherefore it was a thing for laughter amongst the men of En; but in the hosts of Hu it was a thing for fear.

31 And men told strange tales of the things that it did do. And it was said that upon an occasion it did sally forth and, in its adventuring, it did meet with an habitation.

32 And it did go up unto the habitation and it did look upon it. And it did go against the habitation with a purpose so that the walls did fall about it and there was ruination on all sides.

33 And after it had shaken itself free from all that which had fallen upon it, it did betake itself with modesty unto another place as a man that is overcome with shyness and seeketh to pass it over. Verily, it recked nothing of the thing that it had done.

34 ¶ Wherefore, and be-

cause it did smite them hip and thigh, sparing not any man that did come up against it, the men of Hu were afraid, and they did cry out with loud lamentations, saying, Why do ye so despitefully use us? Know ye not that it is not in the war to do these things?

35 And because men knew them, they heeded not their groans, so that it availed them nothing; and the tank remained a thing of terror throughout all their hosts.

36 And in this thing the men of En were first amongst all the fighters of Eur, for it was new. And the people rejoiced, being satisfied that it was given unto them as a sign that the rulers were becoming awake.

## CHAPTER XV.

1 Concerning the land of Amer.  
 4 And the ruler thereof.  
 11 Certain men of Amer are slain. 12 Wudro, the son of Wyl, writeth an epistle.  
 23 He writeth again. 24 He writeth many times. 26 Certain men do question him.  
 34 He revealeth his pride.

NOW the land of Amer was at the other side of the sea *that is* Atlantic, and it was many days' sail in a ship from the island of En.

2 And the bounds of that land were set far apart, and the people that did live there were more numerous than the waves of all the seas.

3 And it was a fertile land of extreme fruitfulness, and the earth *underneath* it yielded precious metals in abundance. And the people were for ever extolling its greatness *amongst* the nations of the earth.

4 ¶ Now the ruler of

the land of Amer was a certain man and his name was Wudro, the son of Wyl; and it happened in this wise.

5 Whilst Wudro, the son of Wyl, was tending his flock of young men in the pasture *that is* knowledge, and after he had taught them how they should go and what things they should know,

6 Behold, the men of Amer came unto him, saying, We have chosen thee for to rule over us; and we have *brought* thee an high hat for to wear as the badge of thine office; and the size of the hat, *it is* six seven-eighths.

7 And because he knew not what he was letting himself *in for*, he gave way to their importuning, and did put on the high hat, the size whereof was six seven-eighths.

8 And it came to pass that when the men of En

fought against the men of Hu, they did send messengers unto the land of Amer for to buy them munitions for the war. And they took with them gold in great quantity wherewith to satisfy the merchants that did sell unto them. Therefore did the land of Amer prosper exceedingly.

9 Now when the men of Hu found out that *there was* peril in the enterprise, they forbore to send out vessels of war for to fight; in place thereof, they did send them out for to murder those that were peaceful and did sail the seas without any weapon wherewith to defend themselves.

10 And coming upon a large ship unawares, they did send it unto the bottom of the sea so that all *they* that did travel upon it were cast into the waters for to drown. Yea, even the women and children that were aboard the vessel, all these perished

miserably, and the men of Hu did watch their death struggles unheeding.

11 ¶ Now amongst those that the men of Hu did slay there were certain men of the land of Amer.

12 ¶ And when word was brought unto Wudro, the son of Wyl, concerning it, and how the men of Hu had slain his servants, he waxed very wroth. And he betook himself unto a quiet place, fearing lest in the height of his indignation he should do violence unto any man.

13 And because he was enraged beyond endurance, therefore did he sit him down and he did write an epistle unto Willi, being him that ruled over the men of Hu.

14 And he said unto him, Knowest thou not that thy servants have slain certain of the men of Amer because they did sail upon the sea?

15 And Willi answered him, saying, Verily, all that thou sayest is true.

Let us therefore put on sackcloth and ashes, and rend our garments, for it is a day of mourning unto thee, and I, also, am full of sorrow.

16 And when Wudro, the son of Wyl, heard all that Willi had said, and how he made answer unto him in soft words, he knew not what to do, for he was a peaceable man and the land of Amer was prospering greatly.

17 So he sat him down and did write unto Willi again, saying unto him, Thy tears are as an healing ointment. But what thou hast done, that doest thou not again lest thou suffer the penalty. Take heed, therefore, that thou disobeyest me not, for I am a terrible man, and fierce.

18 And Willi answered him and did say, Thou hast said so and so, for I have seen it with mine own eyes. Let us now speak concerning other matters.

19 And he called unto him a messenger and did command him to deliver the epistle unto the ruler of the land of Amer. And after he was gone, he set to work secretly and did make him preparation, for it was his intendment to do again that thing against which Wudro, the son of Wyl, had forewarned him.

20 And when the opportunity came, he did sink more ships, and he did leave those that were on them to perish. And because they were all vessels of peace, and without armour, therefore was he strong against them.

21 And a messenger came unto Wudro, the son of Wyl, in hot haste, and he told him of the things that Willi had done and how that he had slain yet more of the men of Amer.

22 And because he was much agitated at the tidings that were brought unto him, therefore did Wudro, the son of Wyl, scratch his head; and he

said unto the courier, The matter concerning which thou hast spoken unto me is fraught with evil consequences, for I will write unto Willi another epistle, and I will use mighty words, and I will affright him.

23 ¶ So he sat him down and did write unto Willi another epistle ; and the words of it were so terrifying that the hand of his scribe did tremble even in the putting of it down.

24 ¶ And whenever Willi did slay any of the men of Amer, then did Wudro, the son of Wyl, send an epistle unto him, abounding in fearsome words and writ upon one side of the paper only.

25 And because he was not untried, having, before that he was ruler over the men of Amer, spoken on occasion unto boys that had broken windows, therefore were the epistles that he did write just so.

26 ¶ And certain men, being of a curious mind,

questioned him, saying, It is true that the epistles that thou writest are things for terror, and that the man who reads them, his blood becometh frozen and circulateth not.

27 And it is true, also, that the things which thou threatenest are dire. But the things that thou doest, what are they ? Is it not an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth ? Yet thou hast sold our lives for gold. Thy threats are idle, and thy words serve but to tickle, not to scratch.

28 And Wudro, the son of Wyl, being enraged at their perversity, did turn upon them, and he said unto them, What mean ye ? Are not the epistles to your liking ? Are not my words strong and well chosen, and is not my meaning plain to all ?

29 And they answered him, saying, Verily, these things are so. Have we not said it ? Nevertheless, he that is wounded

by a word, he sheweth no scar. *How then is the marksman to know?*

30 And hast thou not perceived that Willi laughs at thee before thy face; and, behind thy back, he doth extend his fingers towards thee, pointing them from the apex of his nostrils.

31 At thy threats doth he scoff aloud, and thy servants doth he use in a manner that is abominable.

32 If these things find not favour in thine eyes, send forth thine hosts that he may know that there is might behind thy write.

33 And Wudro, the son of Wyl, did stand him upright and he looked upon

them with eyes that shewed an hurt. And when he spake unto them, he was as one that reasoneth with men afflicted of the mind.

34 ¶ And he said unto them, Would ye have me humble myself so? Verily, I say unto you that *I am* a man that hath an high mind, and I do hold an high position in the land, and I do wear an high hat, the size whereof is six seven-eighths. And *I am* too proud for to fight.

35 And they went their ways amazed, talking amongst themselves, for pride so great as this was never known before; nay, not even in the land of Amer, was such pride known before.

## CHAPTER XVI.

TAKE heed, my son, and hearken unto the words of Artemas, for there are many that will give thee counsel, yet wisdom cometh only from the few.

2 Put not thy trust in princes, for their bond is of paper that teareth easily. And their plighted word melteth like butter, before the heat of their necessity.

3 Beware of the king whose pledge runneth away like water, for the skins of such shall paper the walls of hell.

4 Neither shalt thou aspire unto a partnership with thy God, else shalt thou find Him a sleeping partner indeed.

5 Beware of the woman that followeth thee about, for she is after thy regimental buttons.

6 And if she is safe,

then is she a fool; but if she is otherwise, then is she the devil.

7 A woman hunteth thee. She lieth in wait to surprise thee, and will out upon thee when the time cometh.

8 Flee unto the mountains; pitch thou thy tent afar in the wilderness; take thou sail across the waters until thou comest unto a strange coast. Nevertheless, because she has marked thee down, therefore will she have thee.

9 When thou goest forth for to fight, take care that thou smitest thine enemy in the back, for it is the mark of a good fighter so to do.

10 Also, he that shooteth his enemy through the head sheddeth light upon his understanding.

11 When the foe doth stand two in a line, shoot thou thy bolt, for then

## THE BOOK OF ARTEMAS

[CH. XVI.]

will thine execution be twofold. Verily I say unto thee, *Await* thine opportunity, for a shell in time is as good as a mine.

12 Remember, my son, that the sum of two and two *maketh* four; yet in the reports of thine enemy thou shalt find it otherwise.

13 And because *the pen* is mightier than the sword, therefore believe it not, else shalt thou surely be deceived.

14 Verily I say unto thee, Blessed is the man that *hath* imagination, for his country *shall* win many battles.

15 Take ye heed of *the* lone voice, for in a multitude of counsellors thou *shalt* find confusion.

16 And an arsenal that is full of munitions is better than an hundred rulers full of words.

17 Hearken not unto the boasting of thine enemy and regard him not, for no man knoweth

what *the day* may bring forth.

18 And in the time of its adversity the soul of a country revealeth *itself*.

19 Get thee about it and do things, for the voice of the sluggard dieth in his throat, but the worker is heard from afar off.

20 Make thou thy task according to thy strength, for no man that weareth costly teeth doth gnaw at the bones of an elephant.

21 Make thy life wisely, O my son, and refrain *thy* steps from the path of evil.

22 For the wages of sin is death, and the Payer is a *safe* man that knoweth not want of the wherewithal to requite thy deeds.

23 Woe unto the peace-mongers that entice thee with words, for these do seek thine undoing.

24 Thy way leadeth over stony ground, and to go back, it is *the manner* of a coward.

25 For whosoever setteth his hand to the plow, he shall not turn back ; and he that finisheth a furrow, *he hath* not plowed the field.

26 What man gathereth him the blossom of the apple tree ? Rather doth he wait until the fruit cometh, big and full of juice ; then doth he eat of it.

27 Avoid thou them that seek to divide the people, one against the other, for *they are* traitors in the land.

28 Turn not away from instruction, O my son, but open thine ears full wide, for wisdom maketh a fair mistress and she is youthful for all time.

29 And he that followeth after her, his life shall be well ordered and

his affairs shall fail out just so.

30 Thou shalt rule *thy* comings in and *thy* goings out according to circumstance, so that nothing ariseth amiss ; for a thirst that is born at a proper time, it maketh the publican smile ; but a thirst that cometh late is an affliction unto him that *hath* it.

31 Of two things shalt thou beware, O my son. And the one is the church, and the other, *it is* the devil. For the devil will lead you *down* into hell ; and the church, it will drive you there.

32 Take heed, my son, and hearken unto the words of Artemas, for there *are* many that will give thee counsel, yet wisdom *cometh* only from the few.

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